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Makrorians' maintenance discussed in Administrative Commission meeting

KABUL: The meeting of the Administrative Commission of the Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan was held, with the Deputy Prime Minister for Administrative Affairs Mawlavi Abdul Salam Hanafi, on the Chair, to discuss maintenance of Makrorians, Arg said in a statement Thursday.

According to the statement, the appointed committees presented a report regarding their activities to the commission.

The issues related to the Ministry of Education, Kabul Municipality, the Emirate Company, and the General Directorate of Physical Education and Sports, the statement said.

Previously, issues related to the Ministry of Finance, Kabul Municipality, Academy of Sciences, and Khairkhah Electronic



Company were evaluated in the meeting of the Administrative Commission.

The Kabul Times

No one will be allowed to misuse leftover U.S. military equipment in Afghanistan, says Fitrat

KABUL: The Deputy spokesperson of the Islamic Emirate Mullah Hamdullah Fitrat said



Thursday that the leftover U.S. military equipment and weapons in Afghanistan are in complete security and no one will be allowed to misuse them.

Reacting to the recent remarks of the spokesman of the Pakistani Foreign Ministry Shafqat Ali Khan, claiming that the presence of U.S. advanced weapons in Afghanistan has been an issue of deep concern for the safety and security of Pakistan and its citizens, Fitrat assured: "The Islamic Emirate will not allow anyone to misuse leftover U.S. military equipment in the country."

"All military equipment and weapons left over from the U.S. are under the control of the government and no group or individual has access to the stockpile or can misuse them," Fitrat said, urging the Pakistani officials to refrain from making accusations on Afghanistan.

The Kabul Times

ATRA to construct 14 telecom sites in provinces

KABUL: The Afghanistan Telecommunication Regulatory Authority (ATRA) has signed a contract worth $1.5 million for the construction of 14 telecommunication sites in several provinces, Enayatullah Alokozay, the spokesperson for the Ministry of Telecommunications and Information Technology, said the other day.

The contract has been signed between ATRA and several companies, under which 14 telecommunication sites will be built in Kabul, Kandahar, Paktia, Paktika, Khost, and other provinces, he said.

"These 14 telecommunication sites have been planned for areas deprived of telecommunication services. They will be operational within a year, and once activated, these areas will be covered by telecommunication services," he said.

According to the ministry's statistics, work is currently underway on more than 570 telecommunication sites across the country, with over 50 of them recently becoming operational.

The Kabul Times



13-mega power generating projects to be launched in country, official



KABUL: Dr. Abdul Bari Omar, Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of Da Afghanistan Breshna Sherkat (the country's main electricity company), said Thursday that 13 mega power-generating projects, producing 550 megawatts of electricity, will be launched in the country.

With the implementation the projects, tens of thousands of families will benefit from electricity in various provinces of the country, he said.

Criticizing the international community's dual policy with Afghanistan, Dr. Oamr said that the countries of the world provide billions of dollars in electricity production to Afghanistan's neighboring countries, but they even cut humanitarian aid to Afghanistan.

Referring to the developments and achievements of the Islamic Emirate in the past more than three years, he said: "With the re-establishment of the Islamic Emirate, necessary steps have been taken in the field of electricity production, which had not been done in the past twenty years."

The CEO of Da Afghanistan Breshna Sherkat, stated that Afghanistan needs at least 5,000 megawatts of electricity, of which 350 to 400 megawatts are generated domestically.

He emphasized that achieving self-sufficiency in energy production requires time and investment, but authorities in the Islamic Emirate are working to increase energy production through wind, solar, thermal, and hydroelectric resources in the country.

The Kabul Times

Nearly 40 prisoners released from Ghor jail



KABUL: Based on a decree of the Supreme Leader of the Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan (IEA) Shaikh Hebatullah Akhundzada, 39 prisoners have been released from the central prison of Ghor province, the state-run Bakhtar News Agency reported the other day.

Among those freed are 36 men and three women, with several other inmates also benefiting from the reduction in their sentences, the agency said.

The released prisoners praised the Islamic Emirate Leader's decree. These individuals were imprisoned for various crimes, including moral corruption, robbery, and drug trafficking.

The Kabul Times

Finance ministry to pay govt workers' salaries



KABUL: The Ministry of Finance of the Islamic Emirate has assured that it will pay the salaries of all Emirati employees within the ongoing solar month, the spokesman of the Islamic Emirate Zabihullah Mujahid said Thursday.

Mujahid wrote on his X platform: "The Ministry of Finance will pay the salaries of all 1.4 million Emirate employees during the current [solar] month." No one should worry about this. The country's budget depends on internal revenues. It is not related to giving or not giving foreign aid, Mujahid assured. The assertions come as rumors spread earlier that the Islamic Emirate is not capable of paying its employees after the U.S. President Donald Trump delayed aid to Afghanistan for at least 90 days. **The Kabul Times**

Measures to prevent national disasters in Kabul discussed, NDMA

Kabul Governor Aminullah Obaid, who also attended the meeting, assured that existing challenges in the capital would be addressed, emphasizing that citizens should cooperate with the Islamic Emirate in efforts to reform society.



KABUL: A consultative meeting was held with Mullah Nooruddin Turabi, the head of the National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA), on the chair, to discuss measures for preventing natural disasters in Kabul city, NDMA said in a statement the other day.

Speaking at the meeting, Nooruddin Turabi stated that in addition to the emergency budget, funds would also be allocated to assist those affected by disasters.

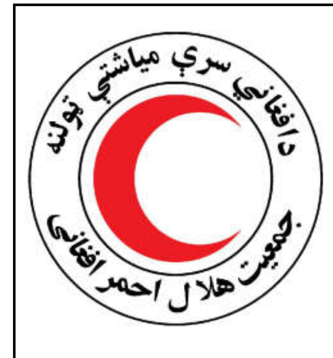
"We hope that the Supreme Leader of the Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan (IEA) Shaikh Mullah Hebatullah Akhundzada will cooperate with us in this regard," he said, assuring that his-led department's commitment to implementing projects aimed at preventing natural disasters in Kabul city. The meeting was held based on a directive from the leader of the Islamic Emirate to initiate projects aimed at preventing natural disasters in Kabul city, Janan Sayeq, the spokesperson for the National Disaster Management Authority, said as quoted by the statement.

He said: "According to the decree of Amir-ul-Mu'mineen, we must implement preventive projects in all provinces and resolve the problems of our fellow citizens." Kabul Governor Aminullah Obaid, who also attended the meeting, assured that existing challenges in the capital would be addressed, emphasizing that citizens should cooperate with the Islamic Emirate in efforts to reform society. In recent years, Afghan citizens have been struggling with droughts due to climate change, while in some regions, flash floods have caused severe damage, particularly affecting farmers. **The Kabul Times**

Treatment of patients with congenital heart defect to continue, says BRCS chief

KABUL: The acting General Director of the Afghan Red Crescent Society, Shaikh Shahabuddin Delawar, met with Jeremy Smith, the Head of the British Red Cross for Afghanistan, to discuss coordination of joint humanitarian activities, the ARCS said in a statement Friday.

Speaking at the meeting, Delawar expressed appreciation for the cooperation of BRC with the ARCS and underscored the significance of their assistance in alleviating the sufferings of destitute and needy families in the country, according to the



statement.

Meanwhile, the head of the British Red Cross reaffirmed the commitment to continue their cooperation in the treatment of congenital heart defect patients and pledged to encourage other international partners to expand their support with the Afghan Red Crescent Society.

Both sides also emphasized joint cooperation and coordination in the humanitarian field to address the challenges facing needy families in the country.

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Food for thought

Today's generation guarantees our bright future

Natural disasters: Precautionary measures a must

Every year, natural disasters take victims among people in many provinces of the country. Flash floods, landslides, and the deadliest earthquakes took hundreds and thousands of lives in various provinces over the past years.

However, national and international aid agencies provided enough emergency assistance and erected makeshift shelters for them in their areas.

The related organs of the Islamic Emirate hurried to cover the entire families suffered the devastating natural disasters.

This year, too, Afghan families are not likely safe from natural disasters, harm, and losses.

A report quoting the National Disaster Management Authority said that it had held a consultative meeting in Kabul with the participation of district representatives and tribal elders to talk about measures to prevent natural disasters.

The consultative meeting resolved that in addition to the emergency budget, funds will also be allocated to assist those affected by disasters, hoping the Islamic Emirate's leadership will cooperate with the authority to respond to the most possible negative outcomes.

Holding such meetings and discussing precautionary measures is the most important step taken by the National Disaster Management Authority is highly welcomed as it has been said to be convened based on a directive from the leader of the Islamic Emirate to initiate projects aimed at preventing natural disasters during the potentially forthcoming seasonal rainfalls or earthquakes in the country.

Indeed, establishing preventive projects in the capital and provinces helps mitigate damages and casualties as much as possible.

The citizens should also cooperate with relevant organs in the protection of their environment and most importantly, in the area of reducing the impacts of climate change everywhere in the country.

Underground water resources should also be paid attention seriously, and the citizens should not waste water as long consecutive droughts have decreased the underground water in every province of the country.

Social media distractions vs. real progress in Afghanistan

In a recent press conference at its media center, Kabul Municipality highlighted its significant achievements over the past five months.



The municipal authorities reported major progress in infrastructure, urban cleanliness, and environmental initiatives.

However, despite these substantial efforts, much of the public discourse remains preoccupied with countering online narratives rather than celebrating local developments.

Over the past five months, Kabul Municipality has successfully paved, concreted, or stone-surfaced a total of 54,177 square meters of main and side roads.

Also, another 43,400 square meters of roads have been repaired using asphalt. The city's cleanliness and greenery efforts have also seen impressive advancements, with 2,316 meters of drainage systems and canals cleaned, 100,000 trees and saplings treated with pest control solutions, and 56,000 square meters of parks rehabilitated.

The municipality has also made strides in property acquisition, compensating landowners with a total of 1.6 billion Afghanis for expropriated properties. In terms of revenue generation, the administration collected 3,168,283,489 Afghanis over this period.

Additionally, as part of consumer protection efforts, officials removed 78,000 kilograms of expired food and hygiene products from markets.

The construction and maintenance of roads, canals, and bridges remain a top priority. Over the last five months, 18 major development projects have been completed, while 82 projects are currently in progress, and 21 others are in the procurement phase. Looking ahead, the municipality has announced plans to begin work on three aerial bridges to ease traffic congestion in the capital.

Despite these tangible improvements in urban development, much of the media landscape and public discussions remain fixated on social media debates rather than highlighting the municipality's efforts.

Many in Afghanistan's online sphere spend time responding to Twitter critics rather than showcasing local achievements.

The irony is that many of these critics are individuals who fled Afghanistan and now face uncertainty abroad. Some reside in the U.S., where they navigate immigration challenges under Trump's strict ICE policies. Many cannot freely go to markets, send their children to school, or even secure a stable legal status.

Reports indicate that some of these exiles have been detained, with no clear information on which country they may be deported to.

A recent announcement from Trump's vice-presidential pick has further unsettled these individuals.

It was declared that even those evacuated under emergency circumstances must undergo thorough background screening. This means that many Afghans who left in the chaotic evacuation process will face strict vetting, possibly leading to deportations.

Yet, these very individuals—who struggle with their uncertain status abroad—still find time to attack Afghanistan's governance on social media.

Ironically, some of them tweet from inside detention centers, caught between ICE vehicles and immigration camps. Meanwhile, many in Afghanistan engage with their posts, offering explanations and counterarguments, as if their online criticism holds any real influence over the country's progress.

It is time to shift focus from endless social media debates to the real developments shaping Kabul and Afghanistan at large. Instead of reacting to exiles' criticisms, public discourse should celebrate local successes. The progress achieved in infrastructure, urban planning, and environmental sustainability deserves attention. Rather than playing on someone else's battlefield, it is crucial to own the narrative and highlight Afghanistan's forward momentum.

Mukhtar Safi

Our victory lies in national unity

As we all know, we as Afghans have suffered from more than four decades of wars and violence, from the attacks of international invaders both the East and the West that have so severely damaged our country and nation culturally, economically, and socially. Due to the continued wars and violence, we did not get the chance to work for the development and betterment of the country.

Of course, not only did we face difficulties and hardships during the period of the four decades of wars imposed on us, but we are still struggling with the plots of enemies who do not want Afghanistan to be united and developed.

Each Afghan has the responsibility to work for the unity of their Afghan brothers for a prosperous and developed Afghanistan.

Now that the invasion of the enemy has come to an end, the overall security situation has improved across the country, and the country's rule has been in the hands of a sincere and patriotic leadership; it is on both Afghans and the Islamic Emirate to work for the national unity in the country.

See P4



How can Afghanistan strengthen national currency?

Part II



Industrialization is not merely about producing goods; it is a comprehensive process that involves technological advancements, infrastructure development, and the ability to manufacture machinery that, in turn, can produce more machines.

Many third-world countries heavily rely on imports for their basic necessities, which creates economic dependency and weakens their financial stability.

To counter this, they often resort to selling their natural resources, such as minerals, to sustain their economies.

However, this approach is neither a sustainable nor an Islamic solution to economic growth.

Even in the Western world, the concept of "resource curse" is well-known, where over-reliance on resource exports leads to economic stagnation instead of progress.

Selling national resources may provide temporary relief for one generation, but it does not offer a long-term solution for economic independence.

Historically, successful industrial nations such as Japan and Germany transformed themselves into industrial powerhouses within 30 to 40 years. They achieved this by acquiring technology, reverse engineering foreign inventions, and investing in expertise.

Industrialization is not just an economic necessity; it is also crucial for upholding the ideological and political independence of a nation. A country that aspires to industrialize must first establish a strong ideological foundation, political sovereignty, and economic independence.

By doing so, it can create a well-defined strategy to tackle fundamental challenges and pave the way for industrial advancement.

For a country to successfully industrialize, four essential factors must be considered:

1. Free domestic market

A free and unburdened domestic market is crucial for industrial growth. This means that local industries should be exempt from excessive taxation and allowed to flourish.

Reducing dependence on foreign imports and encouraging local production are fundamental steps in this process. However, industrialization is not merely about producing goods; innovation must be at the core.

Visionary thinkers and experts should drive local industries to create unique, high-quality products at competitive prices. By ensuring high standards and affordability, domestic industries can meet local demand and eventually compete in the international market.

2. Government focus on infrastructure

Infrastructure development is one of the most critical components of industrialization. The construction of efficient transportation systems, such as roads and railway networks, plays a pivotal role in reducing production and logistics costs.

When transportation becomes more accessible and affordable, the movement of raw materials and finished goods is optimized, directly benefiting industrial expansion.

Without proper infrastructure, even the most well-planned industrial policies will fail to deliver results. Countries that have successfully industrialized have always prioritized the development of cost-effective and efficient infrastructure to support their economic activities.

3. Attraction of investors

Attracting investors is another vital aspect of industrial development. When infrastructure is in place, businesses and investors feel more confident in establishing industries.

A free domestic market encourages private sector participation, leading to economic growth and job creation. Investment-friendly policies, ease of doing business, and transparent regulatory frameworks contribute to fostering a thriving industrial sector.

Without proper incentives, entrepreneurs and businesses will hesitate to invest in industrial ventures. The government must play an active role in creating an environment that supports industrial growth and attracts both domestic and foreign investors.

4. Cultural and intellectual development

Industrialization is not solely an economic process; it is also a cultural and intellectual transformation. The workforce must be trained and equipped with the necessary skills to innovate, manage industries, and solve sectoral challenges.

Education and skill development should be aligned with industrial needs so that individuals can contribute effectively to the growth of various industries. Furthermore, industrialization should be guided by a national ideology that ensures sustainable development.

Without a well-educated and technically proficient workforce, industrialization efforts will be ineffective.

Fida Mohammad

Water: A resource that should not be wasted

The effects of climate change on water availability are not limited to freshwater. Melting glaciers and polar ice caps also affect the global water supply, as they serve as important freshwater reservoirs for millions of people. As these glaciers shrink, many regions that depend on meltwater are facing a future without a reliable water source.

Water scarcity is not a distant problem; it is happening now. According to the United Nations, more than two billion people live in countries facing high water stress, and this number is expected to increase. Even in developed nations, overuse of water resources and contamination of water supplies are becoming serious concerns. The demand for fresh water is outpacing supply, and if we continue to waste this precious resource, the consequences will be dire.



The waste of water occurs in many forms and in various sectors of society. One of the primary causes is inefficient irrigation in agriculture. Agriculture is the largest consumer of water globally, and in many regions, water is used excessively, often with little regard for conservation. Poor irrigation techniques, such as flood irrigation, lead to the loss of water through evaporation and runoff. Additionally, water-intensive crops are being grown in areas where water is scarce, further exacerbating the problem.

In urban settings, water waste is prevalent due to outdated infrastructure, leaks, and overconsumption. Many cities have aging water systems with significant leakage, which wastes millions of gallons of water every day. Moreover, people often take water for granted and use it carelessly. Leaving taps running, taking long showers, or over-watering lawns are common habits that contribute to water waste. These everyday actions may seem small, but when multiplied across millions of people, the impact is significant.

Industrial processes also contribute to water waste. In manufacturing, water is used for cooling, cleaning, and processing. However, many industries discharge untreated wastewater into rivers and oceans, polluting valuable water sources. Some industries also use water inefficiently, wasting large quantities in their production processes.

The rapid growth of industries, especially in emerging economies, is increasing the demand for water, further straining already limited resources.

The consequences of wasting water are far-reaching. In areas where water scarcity is already a concern, the overuse of water can lead to irreversible environmental damage. Rivers and lakes are drying up, groundwater levels are depleting, and ecosystems are being destroyed. This loss of water has a direct impact on agriculture, food security, and biodiversity. In many parts of the world, the effects of water scarcity are already being felt in the form of crop failures, reduced fish stocks, and the displacement of communities that rely on freshwater sources.

For humans, the lack of access to clean water is a matter of life and death. Waterborne diseases are a leading cause of death in developing countries, and the lack of sanitation facilities exacerbates this problem. The scarcity of water also leads to social and economic instability. As water becomes more scarce, competition for resources intensifies, leading to conflicts between communities, regions, and even countries. The global refugee crisis, exacerbated by water scarcity and environmental degradation, is a testament to the severity of the issue.

The good news is that there are many solutions to prevent water waste and ensure that future generations have access to this essential resource. It starts with individual actions. Each of us can reduce our water consumption by making small changes in our daily habits. Simple actions such as fixing leaks, using water-efficient appliances, taking shorter showers, and turning off the tap when brushing our teeth can significantly reduce water waste. In addition, we can conserve water by collecting rainwater for outdoor use, choosing drought-resistant plants for our gardens, and being mindful of our water usage in everyday activities.gh

Governments and industries also have a crucial role to play in water conservation. Public awareness campaigns can help educate people about the importance of water conservation and the consequences of water waste. In many countries, policies and regulations are being implemented to promote water efficiency in agriculture, industry, and urban areas. For example, water pricing mechanisms can encourage people to use water more efficiently, while subsidies for water-saving technologies can make these solutions more accessible to consumers.

Innovative technologies are also helping to address the issue of water scarcity. Desalination plants, which turn seawater into fresh water, are becoming more common in arid regions.

Water recycling systems, which treat and reuse wastewater, are being implemented in both residential and industrial settings.

In agriculture, precision irrigation techniques are being used to minimize water waste and increase crop yields. These technologies have the potential to alleviate some of the pressures on freshwater resources, but they require significant investment and infrastructure development.

One of the most promising solutions to water scarcity is the protection and restoration of natural water sources. Forests, wetlands, and watersheds play a vital role in regulating the water cycle and ensuring a steady supply of clean water. By protecting these ecosystems, we can help maintain the balance of our water resources and reduce the risk of droughts and floods. Furthermore, sustainable land use practices, such as reforestation and soil conservation, can help preserve the health of our water systems.

Education is one of the most powerful tools in promoting water conservation. By teaching people, especially the younger generation, about the importance of water and how to use it wisely, we can instill a culture of conservation that will last for generations. Schools, universities, and community organizations can play a significant role in spreading awareness about water issues and encouraging sustainable practices. It is also important to recognize that water conservation is not just an individual responsibility, but a collective one. Governments, businesses, and civil society must work together to create policies and solutions that promote the sustainable use of water resources. International cooperation is essential, as water scarcity is a global problem that requires a global response. By working together, we can ensure that water remains a resource that sustains life for future generations.

Water is a finite and invaluable resource that is essential for life. However, its scarcity is becoming an increasingly urgent issue that requires immediate action. By reducing water waste, promoting conservation efforts, and investing in sustainable technologies, we can ensure that future generations have access to this vital resource.

It is up to each of us, as individuals and as a global community, to protect and preserve water for the future. After all, water is not just a resource; it is life itself.

In addition to technological solutions, it is equally important to protect and restore natural water sources. Wetlands, forests, and watersheds play a vital role in maintaining the water cycle and ensuring a reliable supply of fresh water. By protecting these ecosystems, we can help maintain the balance of our water resources and reduce the impacts of climate change. **The End**

Atiqa Arian

Proper hydration key to a longer and healthier life

Drinking water is essential for our overall health and well-being, but a new study by researchers at the American National Institute of Health (NIH) suggests that staying hydrated may also have a positive impact on lifespan.

The study found that adults who drink a lot of water have a lower risk of developing chronic diseases and tend to live longer than those who don't take in enough fluids.



The study conducted by researchers at the American National Institute of Health (NIH), examined the sodium levels in the blood and other health indicators of over 11,000 adults over a 30-year period.

They found that those with higher sodium levels were more likely to develop chronic diseases and show more signs of biological aging than those with average sodium levels. They also had a higher risk of premature death.

The new study expands on previous work that the team published in March 2022, which uncovered a connection between higher ranges of normal serum sodium levels and heightened risks of heart failure.

For their latest research, the team wanted to see how hydration affects health outcomes.

As mentioned in the introduction, they looked at the health information of participants over a period of 30 years, spread out over 5 physical checkups - the first 2 during their 50s and the last 3 when the participants were 70 and 90 years old.

To get a clear understanding of how hydration alone affects health outcomes, they left out people who had heightened levels of serum sodium at baseline check-ins or with underlying afflictions that may affect serum sodium levels.

The researchers evaluated how serum sodium levels correlated with biological aging by assessing 15 different health markers such as blood pressure, cholesterol, and blood sugar to understand how well each person's respiratory, cardiovascular, metabolic, renal, and immune system was working.

They also adjusted for other factors such as age, race, gender, smoking status, and hypertension.

The study found that adults with higher levels of normal serum sodium, which falls between 135-146 milliequivalents per liter, were more likely to show signs of faster biological aging. For instance, people with serum sodium levels higher than 142 milliequivalents per liter had a 10-15% higher risk of having a biological age that is higher than their actual chronological age in comparison to ranges within 137-142 milliequivalents per liter, while levels above 144 milliequivalents per liter were linked with an increase of 50%. Similarly, those with levels of 144.5-146 milliequivalents per liter were linked to a 21% increased risk of premature death in comparison with ranges within 137-142 milliequivalents per liter.

Additionally, people with serum sodium levels above 142 milliequivalents per liter had up to a 64% increased risk of developing chronic diseases. Let's put these numbers into perspective.

To stay hydrated, the researchers recommend drinking about 6 to 9 glasses of water (1.5 liters to 2.2 liters) of water for women and 8 to 12 glasses of water for men daily.

Other liquids or fruits and vegetables with high moisture content can also help to increase hydration levels.

It's important to note that those with underlying health conditions or taking medication with diuretic effects may need to drink more. It's always a good idea to consult with your doctor regarding your specific hydration needs.

Although the study provides yet more evidence for the importance of proper hydration, more research is needed to strengthen the results further.

The researchers emphasized that the study, as of yet, only shows a correlation and not a cause-and-effect relationship.

Correlation relates to the relationship between two variables, while causation refers to the relationship between an event and a second event, where the second event is a result of the first.

In short: Correlation does not imply causation; just because two variables are correlated, does not necessarily mean that one causes the other.

Nevertheless, evidence is growing and the researchers suggest that proper hydration may very well slow down the aging process and lead to a longer, disease-free life.

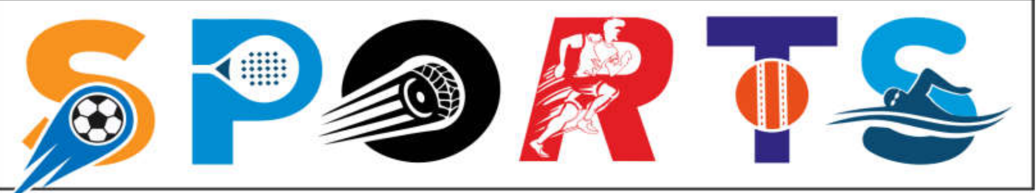
In addition, the study also supports previous research that linked higher sodium levels with an increased risk of heart failure.

Sayed Sharif

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Afghan cricket legend Shapoor Zadran retires from international cricket

Afghanistan's cricketing journey has seen many stars, but few have shone as brightly and resiliently as Shapoor Zadran. The legendary fast bowler, who played a pivotal role in Afghanistan's early cricketing days, has officially announced his retirement from international cricket.



Zadran's contributions to Afghan cricket are remarkable. Over his career, he played 44 One Day Internationals (ODIs) and 36 T20 Internationals (T20Is), claiming a total of 80 wickets. Known for his fiery pace and left-arm swing, he played a crucial role in Afghanistan's rise on the global cricketing stage. His efforts brought pride and recognition to the nation, making him an unforgettable figure in Afghan sports history.

Shapoor Zadran made his international debut on August 30, 2009, and played his final international match on March 8, 2020. Throughout his career, he was a key player in Afghanistan's significant victories, including historic performances in World Cup tournaments. His aggressive bowling and passionate celebrations made him a fan favorite and a symbol of determination.

In recognition of his outstanding services, the Afghanistan Cricket Board (ACB), along with his fellow players and officials, has expressed deep appreciation for his contributions. The ACB leadership has acknowledged Zadran as a national hero, stating that his name will always be written in golden letters in Afghan cricket history. Shapoor Zadran's retirement marks the end of an era, but his legacy will continue to inspire future generations of Afghan cricketers. His dedication, passion, and achievements will forever remain a cherished part of Afghanistan's sporting history.

The Kabul Times

Afghan footballer Imran Haidari joins Lithuania's Sûduva club



Afghan footballer Imran Haidari, a former national team player, has officially signed a contract with FK Sûduva, a club in Lithuania's top-tier league. This move marks a significant step in his career as he joins the A Lyga, the highest professional football division in the country.

Haidari, who has been an outstanding performer for Afghanistan's national team in recent years, is expected to bring his experience and skills to his new club. His impressive performances on the international stage have earned him recognition, leading to this opportunity in European football.

Before joining FK Sûduva, Haidari played in Georgia's top-tier league, gaining valuable experience in European football. His transition to Lithuania's premier league reflects his continuous growth and ambition to compete at a higher level.

FK Sûduva, based in Marijampolė, Lithuania, is one of the country's well-known football clubs, having won multiple league titles. The club's management likely sees Haidari as a valuable addition to their squad as they aim for success in domestic and international competitions.

For Afghan football, Haidari's move is another milestone, demonstrating the potential of Afghan players in international leagues. His success could inspire other Afghan footballers to pursue opportunities beyond national borders and make their mark in global football.

Haidari's transfer highlights the growing presence of Afghan athletes in international sports, reflecting the country's football talent despite challenges. Fans will now be keenly watching his performances in Lithuania, hoping for a successful season with FK Sûduva.

The Kabul Times

Real Madrid enhances qualification chances with crucial triumph



Real Madrid took a significant step forward in the UEFA Champions League after securing a crucial victory against Brest. In an exciting match, Rodrygo scored twice, and Jude Bellingham added another goal to help their team defeat the French side.

The game was a competitive encounter, with Brest putting up a strong fight. However, Real Madrid's attacking quality made the difference, as Rodrygo's brace and Bellingham's goal sealed an important win. The Spanish giants showcased their dominance, maintaining control for most of the match and converting key opportunities. With this victory, Real Madrid's chances of advancing in the tournament have grown even stronger. The team continues to prove its strength in European competitions, aiming for another successful Champions League campaign.

Rodrygo's performance was particularly impressive, as he stepped up to lead the attack, while Bellingham once again demonstrated why he has been a crucial player for Madrid this season. Their contributions were vital in securing the win and keeping the club on track for further progress in the competition.

As the tournament moves forward, Real Madrid remains one of the top contenders, with fans eagerly anticipating their upcoming matches. With this momentum, the Spanish club will be confident in their pursuit of another European title.

The Kabul Times

Seven Iraqi pilgrims killed, dozens hurt in road accident



A bus carrying Iraqi Shia Muslim pilgrims collided with a car, killing at least seven people and injuring more than 40 on Friday in the country's south, officials said.

The accident occurred at 3:30 a.m. (0130 GMT) on the road from Diwaniyah province to the holy shrine city of Najaf. Najaf is home to the holy shrine of Imam Ali, relative of the Prophet Mohammed. "Seven people—four men, two women, and a girl—were killed, and 42 were wounded, including two in critical condition," said Amer al-Kinani, the media officer of the Diwaniyah health department.

The casualties include passengers from both the bus and the car, al-Kinani told AFP.

The bus carried Iraqi pilgrims, including women and children, when the "horrific accident" took place, a rescuer in Diwaniyah said. A police source in Diwaniyah, who confirmed the toll, added that the passengers were pilgrims from the southern province of Basra. The sources requested anonymity as they were not allowed to speak to the media.

Millions of Shia pilgrims from Iraq and around the world travel to Najaf and its twin holy city of Karbala throughout the year.

Road accidents are recurring in oil-rich Iraq, where conflict, neglect, and endemic corruption have left the infrastructure, including roads and bridges, in disrepair. Officials also say speed, mobile phone use, and driving while impaired contribute to crashes. **alarabiya**

Ukraine drone attack sparks fire at key Russian oil refinery

A Russian oil refinery in the southern Volgograd region caught fire after being hit by debris from a Ukrainian drone attack. Regional Governor Andrei Bocharov confirmed the overnight attack, saying on Friday that the blaze was "promptly extinguished" and one injured worker was hospitalised. The attack was Ukraine's latest salvo in its campaign to destroy refineries, oil depots and industrial sites underpinning Russia's war efforts.

Andriy Kovalenko, the head of Ukraine's Center for Countering Disinformation, described the Volgograd refinery as one of the largest in Russia.

Earlier this week, Kyiv claimed to have struck and set on fire a Lukoil refinery in the Nizhny Novgorod region, east of Moscow. **aljzeera**

Canada and Mexico face 25% tariffs on Saturday, Trump says

US President Donald Trump has said he will follow through with his threat to hit imports from Canada and Mexico with 25% border taxes, known as tariffs, on 1 February.



But he added that a decision about whether this would include oil from those countries had not yet been made.

Speaking to reporters in the Oval Office, Trump said the move was aimed to address the large amounts of undocumented migrants and the fentanyl that come across US borders as well as trade deficits with its neighbours.

The president also suggested that he was still planning to impose new tariffs on China, which he said earlier this month would be 10%, but did not give any details.

"With China, I'm also thinking about something because they're sending fentanyl into our country, and because of that, they're causing us hundreds of thousands of deaths," Trump said. "So China is going to end up paying a tariff also for that, and we're in the process of doing that." During the election campaign, Trump threatened to hit Chinese-made products with tariffs of up to 60%, but held off on any immediate action on his first day back in the White House, instead ordering his administration to study the issue.

bbc

Pakistan sacks, blacklists dozens of officials after Mediterranean deaths

Islamabad, Pakistan – When Pakistan's Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif removed Ahmed Ishaq Jahangir from his position as the chief of the country's Federal Investigation Agency (FIA) on Wednesday, he became the highest-profile casualty in a sweeping organisational purge following the deaths of at least 43 Pakistanis off the coast of Morocco earlier in January.

The drowning incident came to light on January 15, when Moroccan authorities rescued 36 people after their boat was stranded in the Mediterranean Sea for 13 days.

At least 37 others, including several Pakistanis, remain missing.

Just four weeks before that, Greek authorities and merchant navy ships carried out four separate rescue missions near the Greek coast, saving at least 200 people, while close to 50 died, at least 40 of them Pakistanis.

These incidents have set off a rare crackdown by the Sharif-led government on officials who were tasked with stopping the human smuggling networks that lure Pakistanis from rural towns and villages with dreams of a life in Europe, and take them on dangerous, illegal migration routes that far too often end in death and tragedy in the waters of the Mediterranean.

Before Jahangir's removal, almost 50 FIA officials were dismissed for alleged negligence related to both the Greece and Morocco incidents. Additionally, the FIA said that more than 50 officials had been blacklisted from serving at any immigration checkpoints or anti-human trafficking units across the country, following a government inquiry, while several arrests were made targeting individuals who facilitated human smuggling networks.

These moves follow mounting criticism of the government for failing to dismantle human smuggling rackets and for its apparent inability to safeguard the lives of citizens who feel compelled to take risky journeys to Europe in breach of migration laws.

A senior government official, who is part of the task force formed by Sharif, said the prime minister was now keenly supervising the government's response.

"The premier is taking these incidents very seriously. He realises the implications and reputational damage to the country, as well as the tragedy that afflicts the families of those who die or get stuck in far-off countries," the official told Al Jazeera, requesting anonymity.

"We have improved not only our border screening but are also focusing on enforcement and prosecution. Now, smuggling someone out of Pakistan is going to be a daunting task," the official claimed.

aljazeera

Our victory lies in national...

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Considering the past situation and ongoing challenges facing the country and nation, every Afghan living inside and outside the country has a religious and national duty to stand by his current national sovereignty and make every effort towards the country's all-round development, prosperity, and freedom from the needs of others.

It is clear that if the Afghan government and its people have strong sympathy and cooperation with each other with complete sincerity, do not listen to the country's enemies, and do not waste their time on useless matters that are dictated by some selfish parties, then there is no doubt that with the blessing of such unity and continuous work and effort of the nation, we will achieve such successes in a short time that the whole world will be amazed.

Although Afghans are safe from the air raids, bombardments, and attacks of foreigners, their minds and brains have come under attack from the dangerous propaganda of many enemies. The only solution to such an intelligence war is for our educated people, intellectuals, politicians, teachers, religious scholars, and other influential people in society to understand the evil of the enemies, not to be deceived by their cunning and lies, and to make sincere efforts to the utmost to achieve mutual unity and strengthen the system. On the other hand, all those people who still believe in wars to change the system or who are waiting for foreign invasions and plotting to weaken the government and destabilize it should be made aware. Remember that unity and support for the system are the only way out of the problems and challenges we are facing. **Mohammad**